



OSM/VISTA Braddock Run Watershed, MD

[Home Page](#)[Directory](#)[Index](#)[Search](#)[Site Map](#)[Help](#)

Braddock Run is a tributary that flows through LaVale, Maryland and into Wills Creek, which empties into the Upper Potomac River. Braddock Run has been channelized and altered significantly over the last one hundred years. An example of this



is the Hoffman Drainage Tunnel, near Clarysville, which is an area of mine drainage that adds iron and manganese into the stream. The tunnel, which was dug in 1903 to drain water from mines on the other side of the mountain—mainly from Georges Creek, is the main source of water for the Braddock Run and pumps from 3 to 7 million gallons of water every day. Stream bank erosion, flooding, and water quality are all issues that have plagued the area for many years.

The watershed group has the

challenge of improving and hopefully reversing these conditions.

The Braddock Run Watershed Association is dedicated to preserving and restoring the stream and its tributaries. Education, involvement, and change are three of our primary focuses for improving the health of the area and its inhabitants. The watershed's vision for the future is to have a sustainable watershed that can be enjoyed by all—and protected for future generations.

Currently, there are many ongoing projects and new projects that are just being started. A watershed assessment was conducted in 2001. A Watershed Management Plan, which will include flood protection, water quality of the upper Braddock Run, stream bank restoration, and storm-water management improvements, is in the final stages of development. The OSM/VISTA has been working with the team to help collect flood data from residents in LaVale by conducting door to door interviews. This data will help provide estimates of the extent of damage and areas



where flooding is most prevalent. One of the options that the management plan is discussing involves talking to mine land owners about planting trees and digging infiltration trenches to improve water quality and reduce runoff.

The OSM/VISTA has also been actively involved in collecting water samples, doing kick samples for macro invertebrate counts, and electro shocking sections of the stream to assess fish populations. DNR Fisheries has been the backbone of helping to get this completed.

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